

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMCONSUL MUNICH
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8502
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMCONSUL BREMEN
AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
AMCONSUL HAMBURG
AMCONSUL STUTTGART
USMISSION USBERLIN

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, GW
SUBJECT: SPD INITIATES DISCIPLINARY ACTION AGAINST
PREISSINGER

REF: MUNICH 1358

1. INTRO AND SUMMARY. FORMER MUNICH SPD CITY COUNCIL FLOOR LEADER HANS PREISSINGER HAS BEEN SUSPENDED AND STRIPPED OF HIS PARTY MEMBERSHIP RIGTHS FOR THREE MONTHS. TWO OTHER RIGHT WING SOCIAL DEMOCRATS HAVE BEEN SUBJECT TO SIMILAR ACTION. THERE SEEMS TO BE NO REPEAT NO END IN SIGHT TO THE MUNICH SPD'S INTERNAL STRIFE. END SUMMARY.

2. ON MAY 20, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF SPD SOUTHERN BAVARIA DISTRICT, PARENT ORGANIZATION OF MUNICH SPD, DECIDED TO OPEN A DISCIPLINARY CASE AGAINST PREISSINGER, LONG-TIME SPD

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FLOOR LEADER IN MUNICH CITY COUNCIL WHO RESIGNED MAY 16. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ALSO SUSPENDED HIS PARTY MEMBERSHIP RIGHTS FOR THREE MONTHS.

3. POINTING TO PRECEDENT ESTABLISHED SEVERAL YEARS AGO, PREISSINGER HAS ANNOUNCED THAT HE DOES NOT REPEAT NO FEEL HE IS IN POSITION TO ATTEND MEETINGS OF SPD CITY COUNCIL

"FRAKTION" DURING PERIOD OF HIS SUSPENSION.

4. INCUMBENT SPD LORD MAYOR KRONAWITTER, HIMSELF A MEMBER OF PARTY'S RIGHT WING, HAS WRITTEN PREISSINGER A LETTER PRAISING HIM FOR HIS OUTSTANDING WORK AS FLOOR LEADER AND 17 YEARS OF SERVICE TO PARTY. ALTHOUGH HE REGRETS PREISSINGER'S DECISION, KRONAWITTER EXPRESSES UNDERSTANDING FOR IT IN VIEW OF "EXISTING PARTY POLITICAL SITUATION."

5. IN ADDITION TO ITS ACTION AGAINST PREISSINGER, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF SOUTHERN BAVARIA DISTRICT INITIATED DISCIPLINARY CASES AGAINST JURGEN MARHUN AND ROLF-HELMUT PFEIFFER, TWO OTHER WELL-KNOWN RIGHT-WINGERS OF THE MUNICH SPD. MARHUN RECENTLY PUBLISHED A STUDY STATING THAT INSIDERS EXPECTED MUNICH SPD TO WIN ONLY 30 (OUT OF 80) CITY COUNCIL SEATS IN 1978 ELECTIONS. (SPD WON 45 SEATS IN LAST ELECTION.) PFEIFFER WAS SUSPENDED FOR DESCRIBING HIMSELF AS A "DISSIDENT" IN SPD ON OCCASION OF HIS RESIGNATION AS DEPUTY "KREISVORSITZENDER" LAST WEEK. MARHUN AND PFEIFFER WERE ALSO SUSPENDED FOR THREE MONTHS.

6. COMMENT. BY ANNOUNCING THAT PRECEDENT PRECLUDES SUSPENDED MEMBERS FROM PARTICIPATING IN WORK OF SPD "FRAKTION," PREISSINGER HAS RELEASED HIMSELF FROM CONSTRAINTS OF "FRAKTION" DISCIPLINE. THIS MEANS SPD WILL HAVE TO RECKON WITH YET ANOTHER VOTE LESS IN A CITY COUNCIL WHERE IT HAS ALREADY LOST MAJORITY.

7. IN SUSPENDING MARHUN, SOUTHERN BAVARIA DISTRICT HAS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MOVED AGAINST A LIEUTENANT OF FORMER SPD CHAIRMAN AND FEDMIN JUSTICE VOGEL. MARHUN HAS BEEN ENGAGED IN CAMPAIGN TO EXPOSE ATTEMPTS OF LEFTISTS TO CAPTURE PARTY IN MUNICH AND ELSEWHERE IN BAVARIA. PFEIFFER CAN BE EXPECTED TO CONTINUE HIS EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH RIGHT-WING STRONG HOLDS AT BASE OF MUNICH SPD.

8. IN CONGEN'S VIEW, THERE IS NO REPEAT NO END IN SIGHT TO MUNICH SPD'S INTERNAL STRIFE. BETTS

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